

New Jersey Family Assistance Center



Update:

February 6, 2004

Message from the Governor:



James E. McGreevey

New Jersey Memorial

New Jersey will construct a September 11th Memorial as a lasting symbol of our resolve to honor those who died by rising above the evil that claimed their lives. The Memorial will be sited at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, directly across the Hudson River from "Ground Zero" in Lower Manhattan. The massive attack on September 11th 2001, that claimed the lives of 700 New Jerseyans, was intended to break our spirit. It has not done that. It has made us more determined and more resolved.

As many of you know, the search for a fitting New Jersey September 11th Memorial to honor the courageous men and women from our state lost in the Terrorist Attacks was first announced in July 2003. Unfortunately, that effort yielded only 19 proposals by the deadline and all were found unsuitable by the Family Memorial Com-

mittee. Many were not compatible with the 1.6 acre site in the northeast end of Liberty State Park. The State is looking for a design that may be seen from lower Manhattan, which incorporates the history of Liberty State Park, including its grove of trees planted last Arbor Day as a living memorial to September 11th victims and its significance to the rescue efforts that took place that day.

As a result, I have renewed New Jersey's nationwide search for memorial proposals. The new deadline is April 30, 2004. However, all entrants must register by March 1, 2004. The Memorial process will involve a stage in which a Professional Advisory Committee, made up of several distinguished design professionals and a Liberty State Park representative, will review the initial entries for compliance with the regulations and begin the winnowing process. The Professional Advisory Committee will present its selection of final designs to members of the Family Memorial Committee which will select the winning design.

As Governor, I encourage designers, architects, artists and any other interested individuals to submit a concept design for the memorial.

The State has set up a website at: www.nj.gov/nj911memorial/nj911_rfp.pdf which sets forth its request for proposals. Proposers may register on-line, or by mailing the registration form in the Request for Proposal.

Funding for the New Jersey Memorial will be provided in part through private donations.

Federal Victim Compensation Fund

By the time the deadline for applying to the VCF arrived on December 22, 2003, close to ninety-eight per cent (2,924 families) of those eligible to apply had done so according to Fund administrator Kenneth R. Feinberg.

Congress did not set a limit on the amount that could be distributed to these families who have surrendered their right to sue the airlines by applying to the VCF. Projections are that the total could reach \$6 billion. In death cases, awards have ranged from \$250,000 to \$6.9 million with the average payout at \$1.8 million. Injury awards ranged from \$500 to \$7.9 million in the case of a person who was severely burned.

As of January 16, 2004 the following statistics were posted on the site at www.usdoj.gov/victimcompensation/payments_deceased.html:

Claims Submitted	7,243
Total Claims Resolved by the Office of the Special Master	1,938
Number of Award Letters Issued	1,574
Other Claims Resolved by the Office of Special Master	364
Average Deceased Victims Awards After Offsets	\$1,810,305
Median Deceased Victims Awards After Offsets	\$1,400,000

Questions about your particular situation should be directed to your case manager or contact the helpline at **888-714-3385**.

Info Hotline: 866-652-7474 • www.nj.gov/wtc

Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families

Legislative Update

Governor McGreevey has signed **S-1926** into law. The new law authorizes the establishment of a trust for young beneficiaries which may defer distribution past age 18 in situations where no will exists. Awards from the Victim Compensation Fund may be included in a trust created under this new law.

A number of victims of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks who had young families died without wills, and their widows supported this legislation. Prior to this, when a minor was the beneficiary of funds from an estate where the decedent died without a will, the funds could be held in trust for the minor's benefit until he reached the age of 18. At that point, his guardian was required to distribute all of the funds to him.

For more information on how this new law may assist you, please consult your lawyer or accountant.

The Governor has also signed **S-1924** into law at the request of WTC Families for a Proper Burial. This group is working to have the ashen remains of their loved ones retrieved, environmentally containerized, and buried with dignity and respect as part of the Memorial to be erected at the WTC site in Manhattan. The new law requires the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to comply with the group's request.

The remains are currently located at Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island, New York. Approvals of the New York State Legislature and the city of New York will be required for this action to occur.

S-1234 which establishes a September 11th Memorial license plate and dedicates the fees to support the New Jersey Memorial and victims injured in the attack has also become law as the result of Governor McGreevey's approval.

You may obtain copies of these new laws at the New Jersey Legislature's Web site: www.nj.leg.state.nj.us; click on the 2002-2003 Session and insert the Bill Number in the search box.

South Side Johnny Concert

Brookdale Community College will host a benefit concert featuring South Side Johnny at 7:00 p.m. on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2004 at Collins Arena on the Lincroft Campus. The Asbury Jukes, Vini "Maddog" Lopez, Steel Mill Retro and The Glen Burtnick Band will also perform.

A portion of the proceeds from tickets sales will go to Special Olympics New Jersey, the Jason David Cayne Foundation, the Kathe B. Stapleton Memorial Scholarship, the Brookdale 9/11 Relief Fund and the Emmanuel Cancer Fund.

Tickets are \$35 and \$25 and may be purchased at www.Ticketweb.com or may be ordered by phone at **866-468-7619** or in person at Jacks Music, Red Bank and Brookdale's Student Activities Department.

The concert sponsors will also offer a limited number of seats free of charge to families of victims. To reserve tickets or for more information, please contact Frank Lawrence, Associate Director of Athletics: **732-224-2044**.

America's Camp

America's Camp is now enrolling boys and girls, ages 7 to 14, for its third summer camp at Lenox, Massachusetts in the Berkshire Mountains. This week-long, sleep-away camp is offered at no cost to eligible families. The campers have diverse backgrounds and interests, but share a common experience - they have all lost a parent in the September 11th 2001 Terrorist Attacks or in the line of duty as a New York City firefighter or law enforcement officer. The camp brochure states that a mature, enthusiastic staff is thoroughly trained to ensure a positive, supportive environment. Campers participate in a wide range of sports, crafts, water activities both at the pool and lake, and special events. The session will run from Tuesday, August 17, 2004 to Monday, August 23, 2004. For information please call **800-548-6295**, e-mail info@americascamp.org, or visit the camp Web site at www.americascamp.org.

September's Mission 9/11 Campaign

September's Mission has launched a fundraising campaign to support and sustain family-oriented program development at the future World Trade Center memorial site in New York City. The goal in this phase of the campaign is \$9 million one hundred ten thousand (\$9,110,000) by September 11, 2004. This may allow modest programs to take place now and in the years to come before the Memorial is built. Eventually, the goal is to raise over \$100 million.

September's Mission is suggesting that donors send \$9.11. September's Mission will hold the money collected in trust until it is needed and work in consort with public agencies to distribute it appropriately. You may donate online at www.septembersmission.org call 888-424-4685 or send a check to The 9/11 Campaign, c/o September's Mission, 548 Broadway, 3d Floor, New York, N.Y. 10012.

[Note that if you donate online, Paypal will take a percentage of your donation (2.9% plus .30 cents). To bring the amount received by September's Mission to \$9.11, you would have to donate \$9.68.]

Changing Your Mailing Address?

Recently, the Post Office has returned several newsletters due to incorrectly addressed envelopes. If you have moved since registering with the Family Assistance Center in September 2001, please notify the Governor's Office of Recovery and Victim Assistance at **609-777-1248** to ensure correct delivery of all future mailings. Thank you!

Health Insurance

During the past two years, several people have been working to create a special health care plan to cover the families of September 11th 2001 Terrorist Attacks' victims. They have obtained consent from a major insurance carrier to insure the group. They have also gained tentative approval for formation of a recognized group from the relevant regulatory agencies.

They have sent the 1500 potential families that could participate in the group plan two questionnaires. Approximately 650 have been returned. Ultimately, it is not likely that the insurer and the state regulators will allow the program to go forward if enough people do not respond.

The organizers expect to learn shortly what the insurance companies will require as the threshold number of participants to ensure a viable insurance plan. If the organizers can meet that number, they will next seek funding from sponsors because the insurance plan must be partially funded to satisfy some regulatory requirements. Funding sources should also reduce the insurance premium cost. Also, the more plan participants, the lower the premiums.

The proposed plan would provide comprehensive coverage, including medical, hospital, prescription drug and vision benefits. Plan members would see participating health care providers for a reasonable co-payment and would be able to receive services from specialists without the approval of any "gatekeepers."

You could assist the organizers now by filling out their questionnaire. Filling out this form does not sign you up for a new health insurance plan. It simply allows the working group to collect demographic information and plan more effectively for the needs of the population.

For example, you may have been given health insurance coverage for 5 years by your spouse's former employer and think that you need not fill out the questionnaire. However, the organizers suggest that at this point, you have only 2.5 years of coverage left. You will need insurance at the end of that period and, if they can achieve their goal, this plan would be available to you at that time.

Another example of someone who could use the plan in the future, if not immediately, would be a widow who is working now and has her own coverage. Should she decide to only work part time or not at all, she could also be covered by this plan when she is no longer covered at her job.

To obtain a copy of this questionnaire, please call: Elizabeth Mattson: **973-645-3030**, or Kevin Duffy: **973-777-7958**. If you have already submitted one, you do not need to do it again.

Dates to Remember

◆ February 14, 2004

"Straight From The Heart" A Valentine Concert featuring Southside Johnny to benefit Monmouth County 911 Charities will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Collins Arena, Brookdale Community College in Lincroft NJ. See page 2 for more information.

◆ March 7, 2004

Backstage at the Metropolitan Opera House. Pre-register your child for a tour of the MET including sets, costumes and lunch. Please call **516-678-2700**.

New Jersey Family Advocate
Management Web site:

www.njfam.org

Art for Heart

In 2003, children of victims of the September 11th 2001 Terrorist Attacks were invited to participate in the therapeutic art program called Art For Heart. This program was developed to offer children who lost someone on September 11th an opportunity to express themselves and their emotions surrounding the events of the day and the aftermath, through art in order to facilitate emotional healing.

Art For Heart allowed children ranging from ages 2 to 16 to paint memories, tributes and messages to the loved one they lost in the Attacks. Their canvases have been sewn together to begin the creation of a large quilt that will capture these children's memories for future generations to view.

The program has now been enhanced and will be offered more frequently to allow more families to participate. Art For Heart First Sundays will be offered to children of the victims of September 11th and their parents on the following five Sundays from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at the 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY: February 1, March 7, April 4, May 1 and June 6.

Children will have an opportunity to make their contribution to the Art For Heart Quilt by painting a square of canvas in memory of their loved one. Those children who have already made a square for the quilt will be able to express their feelings with gouache on paper. You are

welcome to drop by at any time during the hours and days listed, but an RSVP would be appreciated. Please call, Holly Pericoli at 212-415-5749 for any further information and to RSVP for any of the five events.

In addition, the YWCA of the City of New York will host an Art For Heart event on Saturday, March 13th from 10:00am-4:00pm at 610 Lexington Avenue, at 53rd Street, New York, NY in the Hitchcock/Rockefeller Auditorium. Please call Jennifer Hanson at **212-735-9797** for any further information and to RSVP.

World Trade Center Memorial

On January 6, 2004 the World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition Jury selected "Reflecting Absence" by Michael Arad and landscape architect Peter Walker as the winning design. The selection was made from a field of 5,201 entries and was among eight finalists which had been announced last November and displayed at the World Financial Center Winter Garden.

The winning design underwent several revisions which were unveiled on January 14, 2004. The revised design added landscaping and includes the names of each victim displayed at random with members of the police and fire departments bearing their respective agency insignia. It also includes a private meditative space for the families of victims and a sanctuary at the bottom of one of the footprints housing unidentified remains. In addition, an underground museum and interpretive center have been added. The winning design is now on display from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily at the Winter Garden.

Private family viewings may be arranged by calling Anthoula Katsimatides at 212-587-9646; akatsimatides@renewync.com. You may also visit the Web site at www.renewync.com

World Trade Center Relief Fund

New York State established the World Trade Center Relief Fund immediately after the September 11th 2001 Terrorists Attacks to provide surviving spouses, partners, children and parents with assistance and support. Past distributions of this fund focused on surviving relatives. New York is now seeking to disburse similar benefits to those injured in the attacks. Injured clients should apply directly to the state for this benefit. While the application and deadline for this benefit have not yet been issued, you may call the New York State World Trade Center Relief Fund at 866-244-3839 to leave your name and address so that an application may be sent to you when it is ready. Those living outside the United States should call 518-457-3308.

9/11 Independent Commission

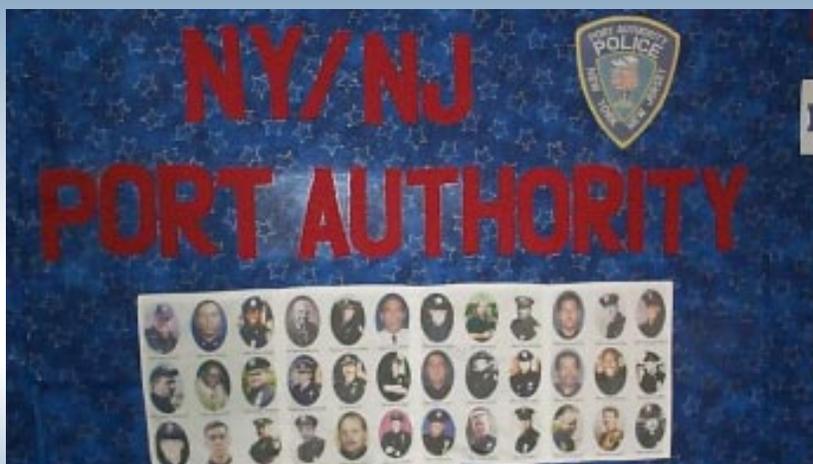
On January 26 and 27, 2004, the Independent Commission held its seventh hearing. At the close of the session, the Commissioners requested that Congress amend the statute which created the Commission to extend the deadline for completing its report by at least 60 days. This request would change the due date to July 26, 2004. The Commissioners added that they expected Congress to leave untouched the 60 days in the current statute for administrative work.

In response, the Family Steering Committee issued a statement on January 29, 2004, requesting a January 2005 deadline. They also stated that they do not support the Commission's request for an extension of only two months.

These statements are available at www.9-11commission.gov.

In addition, it has been reported that bi-partisan legislation to extend the deadline for the Independent Commission report until after the presidential election will be introduced in Congress.

America's 9/11 Memorial Quilts



America's 9/11 Memorial Quilts are still looking for Photos. If you are uncertain whether you have sent a photo, please visit: www.911memorialquilts.com; e-mail Jeannie Ammermann at: quiltmaker@comcast.net or call: 239-949-6616

Development of Park at Fresh Kills

Pursuant to the Mayor Bloomberg's announcement that a master plan was being devised for a "world-class park" at Fresh Kills, a former landfill, Nikki Stern, Governor McGreevey's NJ 9/11 Families representative, arranged a meeting between several families, including three New Jersey residents who are founders of WTC Families for a Proper Burial, officials with the City Planning Commission and the site

planner to discuss how the recovery and temporary burial areas should be handled. "Although the discussions are very much in the formative stages," Ms. Stern reports that "the meeting afforded an opportunity for frank discussion. It was a positive first step and we intend to continue meeting and pressing to get answers as to the future of the site and what currently remains there."

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The National Institute of Standards and Technology ("NIST"), part of the United States Commerce Department, has scheduled a public meeting for Feb. 12, 2004 in New York City. NIST will present an update on the progress and preliminary findings of the Federal Building and Fire Safety Investigation of the World Trade Center Disaster in response to the September 11th 2001 Terrorist Attacks and will solicit comments from the public on:

- (1) specific technical aspects of the individual projects as reported in its December 2003 progress update and presentations to the National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee (available on the NIST WTC Investigation Web site: <http://wtc.nist.gov>);
- (2) information that NIST might consider in the time remaining that is within the scope of the eight projects described in the investigation plan (the plan is available at the same Web site); and
- (3) areas that NIST should consider, within the scope of its investigation, in order to make recommendations for specific improvements to building and

fire practice, standards, and codes, and their timely adoption.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments may request an opportunity to speak at the public meeting. The total number of speakers and organizations, and the time available for each, will be determined by the number of requests, but the time is likely to be 5 to 10 minutes each.

Speakers will be selected based on the following criteria:

- (1) Relevance of a 150- to 200-word summary of the proposed comments on any or all of the above three topics,
- (2) order in which requests are received,
- (3) balancing interests and perspectives, and
- (4) avoidance of duplication in comments and suggestions.

You may register for the meeting by 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, 2004, at the following Web site: <http://wtc.nist.gov/inf/feb04meeting/register.asp>. Alternatively, you may submit written statements and supporting material to reach NIST by the same deadline via e-mail to

wtc@nist.gov, or fax to 301-975-6122, or mail to the WTC Technical Information Repository, Building and Fire Research Laboratory, NIST, Stop 8610, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8610.

Those who are selected to speak will be contacted by 12 noon on Feb. 9, 2004, using the fax, phone, or e-mail address provided, and informed of the decision and the maximum amount of time allotted to each speaker.

Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, and those who are unable to attend in person are invited to submit written statements and supporting material to the WTC Technical Information Repository by Feb. 19, 2004. All comments received will be forwarded to the appropriate investigator for consideration.

Additional information on the location of the meeting and the agenda will be forwarded separately and posted on the above Web site as it becomes available.

For more information, please contact: Michael E. Newman, Director of Media Relations Public and Business Affairs Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 3460, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-3460. Phone: 301-975-3025 FAX: 301-926-1630. NIST info at www.nist.gov.

NJFAM Update

New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc. ("NJFAM") is pleased to announce that, pursuant to NJFAM's By-laws, a new Board of Trustees has been authorized. The By-laws provide that four state officers and three public members serve on NJFAM's Board. The new public Board members were recommended by Governor James E. McGreevey and elected by the former board members present at the Board meeting October 21, 2003. They are: V. Peter Traphagen; Caren Freyer DeSousa and Diane F. Scotland. The four state officers, appointed by the Governor are: Elizabeth Wong, Executive Director of the Higher Education Assistance Authority; Eric Shuffler, Counselor to the Governor; Lisa Eisenbud, Governor's Deputy Chief of Management and Operations and

Karen Fiorelli, Senior Associate Counsel to the Governor. Officers elected at the meeting were: Eric Shuffler, President; Elizabeth Wong, Treasurer; and Karen Fiorelli, Secretary.

NJFAM's Family Advocate Program (FAP) continues to collaborate with 14 social service agencies in the state to provide advocates to family members of the deceased and to the seriously injured. At present, the FAP has 624 registered clients working with advocates.

NJFAM will be flexible and responsive to families who may no longer request current services, but may prefer to have the option to call us if a need arises. Your advocate will be calling you soon to discuss your ongoing and future needs.

NJFAM appreciates your participation

in advisory councils and family forums. Your overwhelming response to our questionnaire last summer assisted us in planning for the future. NJFAM encourages your ongoing feedback regarding the FAP as well as its other programs. Please send any ideas and/or comments to Maureen Scanlon, Program Director, at 866-652-7474; Maureen.Scanlon@treas.state.nj.us. You may also relay your ideas through your advocate or write to NJFAM at 630 Bangs Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

The FAP will continue posting resources and contact information on our Web site at: www.njfam.org to keep you updated with 9-11 and other related information.

Scholarship Funds

The Board of Trustees of the New Jersey World Trade Center Scholarship Fund ("the Fund") has approved scholarship amounts for the 2004-2005 academic year. Eligible applicants will receive scholarships up to \$6500 (\$3250 per semester).

Applications are available at the State Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) Web site www.hesaa.org. The application deadline for the Fall 2004 semester is October 1, 2004. Families who are registered with the Fund will receive a mailing in the next few weeks that will include an application. Families who still need to register can access the Family Information Form at the HESAA Web site or by calling 609-588-2349. All families are urged to register.

The following funds are in addition to those listed on the websites at HESAA: www.hesaa.org and New Jersey Family Advocate Management Inc. (NJFAM): www.njfam.org.

September 11 Scholarship Alliance which is coordinating scholarship funds created to assist families of people killed or permanently disabled in the terrorist attacks on America on September 11, 2001, including airplane crews and passengers, World Trade Center and Pentagon workers and visitors, and relief workers - including firefighters, law enforcement and port authority officers, and emergency medical personnel.

A number of scholarship funds have been established and scholarships are available for victims' dependent children, spouses, or domestic partners. The scholarships may be used to attend an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school in the United States as well as in other countries. While most funds are directed to undergraduate study, some funds will provide scholarships for graduate study. Each of the funds has its own policies and requirements.

Each family member who is eligible for scholarship funds completes two steps: registration and application. Families of victims are encouraged to register all dependents, including young children (newborn to high school) and spouses/domestic partners, as soon as possible. Application for

scholarship funds occurs when a dependent is graduating high school, enrolling in a post secondary school, or continuing pursuit of a degree for another semester/quarter.

Contact information for these scholarships is: Scholarship America, Inc. (formerly Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, Inc.); **877-862-0136**.

Scholarship America (formerly Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, Inc.) Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund

The Fund was created to provide education assistance for postsecondary study to financially needy dependents of those killed or permanently disabled as a result of the September 11th 2001 terrorist attacks, and during rescue activities relating to those attacks. Lumina Foundation for Education of Indiana initiated the Fund with a \$3 million grant. Special subfunds have been established for identified groups and can be specifically designated.

Institute for International Education (IIE) and USFreightways Corporation 911 Armed Forces Scholarship Fund

USFreightways employees established the 911 Armed Forces Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships specifically for the education of children of September 11 victims. USFreightways partnered with IIE to provide administrative services.

◆ Contact information: IIE: **212-984-5593**; www.IIE.org ; www.usfreightways.com

Pace University Pace Remembers Scholarship

◆ Contact information: **914-773-4283**; www.pace.edu

United Way and New York Community Trust September 11th Fund

United Way of New York City and the New York Community Trust established the September 11th Fund to meet the immediate and longer-term needs of victims, families, and communities affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The Fund works by making grants to nonprofit organizations and agencies with the expertise to meet a wide range of needs quickly.

◆ Contact information: **866-689-HELP (4357)**; www.september11fund.org

New York State Higher Education Services Corporation New York State World Trade Center Memorial Scholarship Program

Initiated by George E. Pataki, Governor of New York, the legislated New York State World Trade Center Memorial Scholarship guarantees a college education to all of the families of those killed or seriously and permanently disabled in the terrorist attacks at all SUNY and CUNY schools or an equivalent amount of aid for students attending private colleges in New York State.

◆ Contact information: **888-NYSHESC**, press * Ask for Scholarship Unit; www.hesc.com

United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Liberty Scholarship

Liberty Scholarship is the commitment of the 39 UNCF members to provide full scholarship support for the children of victims who were killed or permanently disabled as a result of the September 11 tragedy. A grant from the Keck Foundation provides support to students attending UNCF institutions who were economically affected by the tragedy.

◆ Contact information: **703-205-3538**; www.uncf.org

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Bridge to Tomorrow Grant Program

The Foundation has committed \$1 million to provide educational assistance to dependents of people killed or permanently disabled during the September 11 attacks.

◆ Contact information: **800-498-6478**; www.jackkentcookefoundation.org

Children's Aid Society NY KIN Scholarship Fund

The Children's Aid Society provides services to underserved children and families through its cutting-edge programs. The Children's Aid Society began helping World Trade Center victim families with immediate needs and continues to provide long-term assistance including tuition for educational pursuits.

◆ Contact information: **212-949-4838**; www.childrensaidsociety.org/wtc-scholarships